Rules of Procedure

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

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COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

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CONTENTS

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE

PART I—SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

Page

Rule 1. Scope and Authority 1

PART II—GENERAL COMMITTEE RULES

Rule 2. Subcommittees 1
Rule 3. Meetings 2
Rule 4. Members Required for Quorums and Committee Action 2
Rule 5. Broadcasts of Committee Proceedings 3
Rule 6. Committee Records 4
Rule 7. Special Procedures 5
Rule 8. Changes in Committee Rules 6

PART III—COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY

SUBPART A—COMPLAINTS AND COMMITTEE INQUIRIES

Rule 9. Complaints 6
Rule 10. Processing of Complaints 7
Rule 11. Preliminary Inquiry and Statement of Alleged Violation 10

CONTENTS—Continued

	Page
Rule 12. Answers and Motions and Committee Action	11
Rule 13. Inquiries on the Committee's Initiative	14
Rule 14. Committee Action After Criminal Convictions	15
Rule 15. Definition	16
SUBPART B—DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS	
Rule 16. Disciplinary Hearings	16
Rule 17. Recommendations	19
Rule 18. Disclosure of Evidence	22
SUBPART C—EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES	
Rule 19. Exculpatory Information	22
Rule 20. Admissibility of Evidence	23
Rule 21. Witnesses	23
PERTINENT RULES OF THE HOUSE	
Rule X	25
Rule XI	26
Committee History	35

PART I—SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

RULE 1. (a) These rules govern the procedures to be followed by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (hereafter referred to as the "Committee"). So far as applicable, these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be the rules of each subcommittee of the Committee, but each subcommittee may prescribe additional rules not inconsistent therewith.

(b) These rules are adopted under the authority of clause 2(a) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, 96th Congress.

PART II—GENERAL COMMITTEE RULES

SUBCOMMITTEES

RULE 2. (a) The Chairman may establish subcommittees and may assign to them such functions as he may deem advisable. The membership of each subcommittee shall provide equal representation for the majority and minority parties. The Chairman may refer any bill, resolution, investigation, or other matter before the Committee to an appropriate subcommittee for consideration and may recall any such bill, resolution, investigation, or other matter from the subcommittee to which it was referred.

(b) Any member of the Committee may sit with any subcommittee, but only regular

members of the subcommittee may vote on any matter before the subcommittee.

MEETINGS

RULE 3. (a) The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of each month, except when the House is not meeting on that day. When the Chairman determines that there is sufficient reason, he may call a meeting on additional days. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held when the Chairman determines there is no business to be considered.

(b) Insofar as practicable, notice will be provided seven days in advance of meetings. However, the Chairman may, in his discretion, waive such time period for good cause.

MEMBERS REQUIRED FOR QUORUMS AND COMMITTEE ACTION

RULE 4. (a) (1) A quorum of the Committee consists of a majority of the members of the Committee.

(2) A quorum of a subcommittee consists of a majority of the members of the subcommittee.

(b) Except as provided in clause 4(e) (2) (A) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and rules 5, 8, 12, 16, and 17 of the Committee rules, action may be taken by the Committee by a simple majority, a quorum being present.

BROADCASTS OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

RULE 5. (a) Whenever any hearing or meeting by the Committee is open to the public, the Committee may permit, except as provided in clause (b) of this rule, by a vote of a majority of the Committee, that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any such methods of coverage, under the following rules:

(1) If the television or radio coverage of the hearing or meeting is to be presented to the public as live coverage, that coverage shall be conducted and presented without commercial sponsorship.

(2) No witness shall be required against his or her will to be photographed or to otherwise have a graphic reproduction of his or her image made at any hearing or to give evidence or testimony while the broadcasting of that hearing, by radio or television, is being conducted. At the request of any witness who does not wish to be subjected to radio coverage at a hearing, all microphones shall be turned off, at the request of any witness who does not wish to be subjected to television or still photography coverage at a hearing, all lenses shall be covered, and at the request of a witness who does not wish to have a graphic reproduction of his or her image made at a hearing, the making of such a reproduction at the hearing shall not be permitted. This paragraph is supplementary to clause 2 (k) (5) of

Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives relating to the protection of the rights of witnesses.

(3) Not more than four television cameras, operating from fixed positions, shall be permitted in a hearing or meeting room. The allocation among the television media of the positions of the number of television cameras permitted in a hearing or meeting room shall be in accordance with fair and equitable procedures devised by the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(4) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between any witness giving evidence or testimony and any member of the Committee or the visibility of that witness and that member to each other.

(5) Television cameras shall not be placed in positions which obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media.

(b) Coverage by radio, television, still camera, or electronic recording device of any disciplinary hearing held under subpart B of part III of the Committee rules is prohibited.

COMMITTEE RECORDS

RULE 6. (a) The Chairman of the Committee shall, with the approval of the Committee, establish such procedures as in the Chairman's judgment may be necessary to prevent

the unauthorized disclosure of any testimony or other information received by the Committee or its staff.

(b) Unless otherwise authorized by the Committee, no information received by the Committee respecting any alleged violation by a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives of the Code of Official Conduct or of any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, officer, or employee in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities shall be disclosed to the public before the transmittal under rule 11 of the Committee rules to such Member, officer, or employee of a Statement of Alleged Violation in connection with such violation. After the service of such a Statement on the Member, officer, or employee—

(1) the Statement and any other paper filed pursuant to rule 12 of the Committee rules respecting such violation shall be made available for public inspection at reasonable hours, and

(2) any other paper filed with the Committee respecting such violation shall be made available as authorized by the Committee, except that no paper shall be made available if its disclosure would violate any Executive Order or any Federal law or regulation.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

RULE 7. The Committee may adopt by resolution any special procedures deemed neces-

15-726 O - 83 - 2

sary to a particular matter before the Committee. Copies of such special procedures shall be furnished to all parties and witnesses in the matter.

CHANGES IN COMMITTEE RULES

RULE 8. The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a vote of a majority of the Committee if before such vote written notice of the proposed modification, amendment, or repeal was provided each member of the Committee.

PART III—COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY

SUBPART A—COMPLAINTS AND COMMITTEE INQUIRIES

COMPLAINTS

RULE 9. (a) A complaint submitted to the Committee under clause 4(e)(2)(B) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be in writing and under oath, setting forth in simple, concise, and direct statements—

(1) the name and legal address of the party filing the complaint (hereafter referred to as the "complainant");

(2) the name and position or title of the Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives alleged to be in violation of the Code of Official Conduct or a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct;

(3) the nature of the alleged violation, including, if possible, the specific section of the Code of Official Conduct or law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct alleged to have been violated; and

(4) the facts alleged to give rise to the violation. When facts are alleged upon the information and belief of the complainant, the complaint shall so state and set forth the basis for such information and belief.

(b) All documents in the possession of the complainant that are relevant to and in support of the allegations shall be appended to the complaint.

(c) A complaint by a Member of the House of Representatives may be transmitted directly to the Committee. A complaint by an individual not a Member of the House may be transmitted through a Member who agrees, in writing, to accept it for that purpose. If a complaint by an individual not a Member of the House is submitted to three Members of the House who refuse, in writing, to transmit the complaint to the Committee, the complainant may transmit the complaint directly to the Committee, provided an affidavit is attached stating, under oath, the names of the Members to whom the complaint was submitted and by whom it was rejected in writing.

PROCESSING OF COMPLAINTS

RULE 10. (a) (1) The staff of the Committee

shall examine each complaint submitted to the Committee for compliance with clause 4 (e) (2) (B) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and rule 9 of the Committee rules.

(2) If the staff determines that a complaint does not comply with such House and Committee rules, the complaint shall be returned to the complainant with a general statement that the complaint is not in compliance with such rules and a copy of such rules. A complainant may resubmit a complaint.

(3) If the staff determines that a complaint is in compliance with such House and Committee rules, the complaint shall be filed with the Committee. Within five days of the filing of a complaint (A) a copy of the complaint, showing the date of its filing, shall be transmitted to the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee, and (B) every other member of the Committee shall be notified of the filing of the complaint and of its availability for inspection by the member in the Committee offices. Upon the request of any member of the Committee, the staff of the Committee shall inform the member of the complaints which have been filed with the Committee and which are pending before the Committee.

(4) If within thirty days of the date of the filing of a complaint the Chairman and rank-

ing minority member of the Committee jointly—

(A) decide to place the complaint on the Committee agenda for consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee, it shall be so placed on such agenda, or

(B) determine that the complaint be dismissed because it fails to allege facts which constitute a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or applicable law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct, the complaint together with the determination that it should be dismissed shall be placed on the Committee agenda for consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

Unless the Committee determines under clause (b) that the complaint merits further inquiry, the complaint shall be dismissed and the complainant shall be notified of the dismissal. If upon the expiration of such thirty days, the Chairman and ranking minority member have not taken any joint action respecting the complaint, it shall be placed on the Committee agenda for consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

(b) At the meeting at which the Committee is to consider a complaint filed with the Committee, the Committee shall determine whether the violation alleged in the complaint is within the jurisdiction of the Committee and, if so, whether the allegations in the

complaint merit further inquiry. The complainant and respondent shall be notified, in writing, of action taken by the Committee respecting the complaint.

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

RULE 11. (a)(1) If the Committee determines under rule 10(b) that the allegations of a violation in a complaint filed with the Committee merit further inquiry, the Committee shall conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine whether such violation occurred.

(2) In the preliminary inquiry—

(A) the Committee shall provide the respondent an opportunity to present to the Committee, orally or in writing, a statement respecting the allegations with respect to which the inquiry is being held,

(B) the staff may interview witnesses and examine documents and other evidentiary matter,

(C) the Committee may order the testimony of witnesses to be taken under oath, in which event the oath may be administered by a member of the Committee or by any person authorized by law to administer oaths,

(D) the Committee may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other things as it deems necessary to the conduct of the inquiry, and

(E) any probative evidence may be used.

Upon the completion of the preliminary inquiry, the staff of the Committee shall prepare and transmit to the Committee a report containing a comprehensive summary of the information received in the inquiry and may include in the report a recommendation for action by the Committee respecting the alleged violation which was the subject of the inquiry.

(b) If the Committee determines on the basis of the report of the Committee staff on the preliminary inquiry respecting an alleged violation that there is reason to believe that the violation occurred, the Committee may direct the staff to transmit to the respondent a Statement of Alleged Violation. A Statement shall be divided into counts and each count shall relate to a separate violation and shall contain a plain and concise statement of the alleged facts of such violation and include a reference to the provision of the Code of Official Conduct or law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct alleged to have been violated.

ANSWERS AND MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE ACTION

RULE 12. (a) If a Statement of Alleged Violation is transmitted under rule 11(b) of the Committee rules, the respondent receiving the Statement shall have not less than 21 days in which to respond to it. The response

shall be by way of answer or motion, shall be in writing and signed by the respondent or his counsel, and shall be limited to the following:

(1) An admission to or denial of, under oath, each count set forth in the Statement. A denial may include (A) negative and affirmative defenses to the allegations in a count, and (B) any supportive evidence and any other relevant information which the respondent may desire to submit.

(2) An objection to any count in the Statement on the grounds that it fails to state facts which constitute a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or any other applicable law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct.

(3) An objection to the jurisdiction of the Committee to consider the allegations contained in the Statement.

(4) A motion for a bill of particulars.

(5) An objection to the participation of any member of the Committee in the consideration of the allegations contained in the Statement on the grounds that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. The Committee member against whom the objection is made shall be the sole judge of his qualifications. A motion under this paragraph is not in lieu of an answer.

Any motion submitted pursuant to this clause shall be accompanied by a memorandum of points and authorities. Except for good cause shown, no pleading or motion not described in paragraphs (1) through (5) will

be considered by the Committee and the Committee will not consider any answer or motion described in such paragraphs which is submitted under this clause after the expiration of such 21 days.

(b) Within 30 days after the receipt of any motion under clause (a) respecting a Statement, the Committee shall consider such motion. Notice of the decision of the Committee respecting the motion shall be furnished the respondent who submitted it. When the Committee has acted on all motions submitted under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of clause (a), the respondent shall, in accordance with paragraph (1) of such clause, submit, within fourteen days of the date of the last Committee action, an answer to each count in the Statement not dismissed by the Committee.

(c) Failure to submit, within the applicable time period, an answer to a count of a Statement which has not been dismissed by the Committee shall constitute an admission to the violation alleged in the count.

(d) The Chairman, in his discretion, may extend any time limitation imposed by clause (a) or (b) if he determines that the extension would facilitate a fair and complete inquiry and may shorten any such time limitation if he determines that there are special circumstances which require the shortening of such time limitation.

(e)(1) As soon as practicable after the expiration of all applicable time limitations for

15-726 O - 83 - 3

action under clauses (a) and (b) respecting a Statement of Alleged Violation, the Committee shall act, by the vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, to—

(A) hold a disciplinary hearing on the violation charged in the Statement, or

(B) defer action on the Statement but only if there is a judicial proceeding pending.

Failure to achieve a vote of the majority of the members of the Committee on a motion to take any action described in subparagraph (A) or (B) shall constitute dismissal of the Statement.

(2) The respondent to a Statement of Alleged Violation shall be notified in writing of action taken under paragraph (1) by the Committee respecting the Statement.

INQUIRIES ON THE COMMITTEE'S INITIATIVE

RULE 13. Notwithstanding the absence of a complaint filed with the Committee under rule 10 of the Committee rules, the staff of the Committee shall present to it any evidence available to the staff reasonably indicating that any Member, officer, or employee may have committed a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to his conduct in the performance of his duties or in the discharge of his responsibilities. If the Committee determines that the evidence presented by the staff of an alleged violation merits further inquiry, the Committee shall,

in accordance with rule 11(a) of the Committee rules, conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine whether such violation occurred. Rules 11 and 12 of the Committee rules shall apply to further proceedings respecting such alleged violation.

COMMITTEE ACTION AFTER CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

RULE 14. If a Member, officer, or employee of the House is convicted in a Federal, State, or local court of a criminal offense for which a sentence of a term of imprisonment of at least one year may be imposed, the Committee shall conduct, in accordance with rule 11(a) of the Committee rules, a preliminary inquiry to review the evidence of such offense and to determine whether it constitutes a violation over which the Committee is given jurisdiction under clause 4(e) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. If on the basis of the report of the Committee staff on the preliminary inquiry the Committee determines that an offense was committed over which the Committee has jurisdiction under such clause, the Committee shall notify the Member, officer, or employee of its determination and shall hold a disciplinary hearing for the sole purpose of determining what action to recommend to the House respecting such offense. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the requirements of rule 16 of the Committee rules applicable to the second

phase of a disciplinary hearing and any recommendation made by the Committee shall be made in accordance with rule 17 of the Committee rules.

DEFINITION

RULE 15. For purposes of this subpart and subpart B, the term "respondent" means a Member, officer, or employee of the House who is charged in a complaint filed with the Committee under rule 10 of the Committee rules or who is charged in a Statement of Alleged Violation transmitted under rule 12 of the Committee rules.

SUBPART B—DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

RULE 16. (a) A disciplinary hearing respecting a violation charged in a Statement of Alleged Violation shall be held to receive evidence upon which to base findings of fact and recommendations, if any, to the House respecting such violation. A disciplinary hearing shall consist of two phases. The first phase shall be for the purpose of determining whether or not the counts in the Statement have been proved. The second phase shall be for the purpose of determining what action to recommend to the House with respect to any count found to have been proved.

(b) At a disciplinary hearing the Committee may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such wit-

nesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other things as it deems necessary. Depositions, interrogatories, and sworn statements taken under Committee direction may be accepted into the Committee record. The procedures set forth in clause 2(k) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to disciplinary hearings.

(c) Prior to setting a date for a disciplinary hearing and issuing subpoenas for witnesses, the Committee shall resolve the scope and purpose of the hearing. A copy of this statement of scope and purpose shall be furnished to all witnesses. During the course of the hearing the Committee may expand or contract the scope in light of evidence received.

(d)(1) The order of phase one of a disciplinary hearing shall be as follows:

(A) The Chairman shall open the hearing by stating the Committee's authority to conduct the hearing, the purpose of the hearing, and its scope.

(B) Testimony from witnesses and other evidence pertinent to the subject of the hearing shall be received in the following order whenever possible: (i) witnesses and other evidence offered by the Committee staff, (ii) witnesses and other evidence offered by the respondent, and (iii) rebuttal witnesses.

(C) Witnesses at a hearing shall be examined first by the Committee counsel or authorized staff member. The Committee members may then question the witnesses under the five-minute rule. The respondent or his counsel may then cross-examine the witnesses. Redirect and recross may be permitted in the Chairman's discretion. With respect to witnesses offered by the respondent, a witness shall be examined first by the respondent or his counsel, and then may be cross-examined by Committee counsel or authorized staff member. Committee members may then question the witness under the five-minute rule. Redirect and recross may be permitted in the Chairman's discretion.

(2) Testimony of all witnesses shall be taken under oath. The form of the oath shall be: "Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this Committee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" The oath shall be administered by the Chairman or Committee member designated by him to administer oaths.

(e) At a disciplinary hearing the burden of proof rests on the staff with respect to each count to establish the facts alleged therein clearly and convincingly by the evidence that it introduces.

(f) Phase two of a disciplinary hearing shall consist of oral and/or written submis-

sion by counsel for the Committee and counsel for the respondent as to the sanction the Committee should recommend to the House of Representatives with respect to any count of the Statement of Alleged Violation which has been proved. Testimony by witnesses will not be heard at phase two except by a vote of a majority of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RULE 17. (a) (1) (A) As soon as practicable after the completion of the first phase of a disciplinary hearing respecting a Statement of Alleged Violation, the Committee shall consider each count contained in the Statement and with respect to each count as originally drawn or as amended shall vote on a motion that the count has been proved. A count shall not be proved unless at least a majority of the Committee vote for a motion that the count has been proved. A count which is not proved shall be considered as dismissed by the Committee.

(B) If the Committee votes that a count has been proved, the Committee may upon completion of the second phase of the disciplinary hearing, by a majority vote of the Committee, consider and vote on a motion that a recommendation be made to the House for appropriate action respecting the violation charged in such count.

(2) If in a vote taken under paragraph (1)(A) respecting a count a majority of the

Committee does not vote that the count has been proved, a motion to reconsider that vote may only be made by a Member who voted that the count was not proved. If in a vote taken under paragraph (1)(B) to adopt a recommendation to the House respecting a violation charged in a count a majority of the Committee does not vote in favor of the recommendation, a motion to reconsider that vote may only be made by a Member who voted against the recommendation.

(b) (1) With respect to any violation with which a Member of the House was charged in a count which the Committee has voted as proved, the Committee may include in its recommendation to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(A) Expulsion from the House.

(B) Censure.

(C) Reprimand.

(D) Fine.

(E) Denial or limitation of any right, power, privilege, or immunity of the Member if under the Constitution the House may impose such denial or limitation.

(F) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(2) With respect to any violation with which an officer or employee of the House was charged in a count which which the Committee has voted as proved, the Committee may include in its recommendation to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(A) Dismissal from employment.

(B) Fine.

(C) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(c)(1) The purpose of this clause is to inform the Members of the House of Representatives as to the general guidelines the Committee considers appropriate for determining which, if any, sanctions to recommend to the House respecting violations proved in a disciplinary hearing. This clause does not limit the authority of the Committee to make or not to make recommendations for such sanctions.

(2) For technical violations, the Committee may direct that the violation be reported to the House without a recommendation for a sanction.

(3) With respect to the sanctions which the Committee may determine to include in a recommendation to the House respecting a violation, reprimand is appropriate for serious violations, censure is appropriate for more serious violations, and expulsion of a Member or dismissal of an officer or employee is appropriate for the most serious violations. A recommendation of a fine is appropriate in a case in which it is likely that the violation was committed to secure a financial benefit; and a recommendation of a denial or limitation of a right, power, privilege, or immunity of a Member is appropriate when the violation

bears upon the exercise or holding of such right, power, privilege, or immunity.

(d) The Committee report accompanying a recommendation to the House adopted by the Committee under clause (a) (1) (B) respecting a violation charged in a count shall contain a brief but complete statement of the evidence which supported the finding as to that count and a brief statement of the Committee's reasons for the recommendation.

DISCLOSURE OF EVIDENCE

RULE 18. Upon the request of a respondent, the Committee may permit the respondent to inspect, copy, or photograph books, papers, documents, photographs, or other tangible objects which the Committee intends to use as evidence against the respondent in a disciplinary hearing and which are material to the preparation of the defense of the respondent.

SUBPART C—EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES

EXCULPATORY INFORMATION

RULE 19. If the Committee at any time receives any exculpatory information respecting a Statement of Alleged Violation against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct, it shall make such information available to such Member, officer, or employee.

ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE

RULE 20. (a) Any evidence that is relevant and probative shall be admissible in any hearing of the Committee, unless the evidence is privileged or unless the Constitution otherwise requires its exclusion. Objections going only to the weight that should be given to evidence will not justify its exclusion.

(b) The Chairman or other Member presiding at a hearing shall rule upon any question of admissibility at the hearing of testimony or evidence presented to the Committee. The Chairman or other Member presiding may limit the presentation of repetitious evidence. Rulings shall be final unless reversed or modified by a majority vote of the Committee members present.

WITNESSES

RULE 21. (a) A subpoena to a witness to appear at a hearing shall be served sufficiently in advance of his scheduled appearance to allow him a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Committee, to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel should he so desire.

(b) Except as otherwise specifically authorized by the Chairman, no member of the Committee or staff shall make public the name of any witness subpoenaed by the Committee before the date of his scheduled appearance.

(c) Witnesses at hearings may be accom-

panied by their counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights and to raise objections to procedures or to the admissibility of testimony and evidence. Counsel for a witness other than the respondent shall not be permitted to engage in oral argument with the committee. After a witness has testified, his counsel may submit to the Committee, in writing, any questions he wishes propounded to his client and any request for additional witnesses or other evidence. Such request may be granted at the Committee's discretion.

(d) The respondent may apply to the Committee for the issuance of subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses or the production of documents on his behalf. The application shall be granted upon a concise showing by the respondent that the proposed testimony or evidence is relevant and not otherwise available. The application shall be denied if not made at a reasonable time or if the testimony or evidence would be merely cumulative.

(e) Each witness subpoenaed by the Committee may sign appropriate vouchers for travel allowances and attendance fees, which may be obtained from the Committee staff.

(f) Each witness appearing before the Committee shall be furnished a printed copy of the rules of the Committee and the pertinent provisions of the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the rights of witnesses.

PERTINENT RULES OF THE HOUSE

House Rule X, Clause 1

(t) Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

(1) Measures relating to the Code of Official Conduct.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction under the preceding provisions of this paragraph (and its general oversight function under clause 2(b)(1)), the committee shall have the functions with respect to recommendations, studies, investigations, and reports which are provided for in clause 4(e), and the functions designated in Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978.

Rule X, Clause 4

(e) (1) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is authorized: (A) to recommend to the House from time to time such administrative actions as it may deem appropriate to establish or enforce standards of official conduct for Members, officers, and employees of the House; (B) to investigate, subject to subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, any alleged violation, by a Member, officer, or employee of the House, of the Code of Official Conduct or of any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, officer, or employee in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, and, after notice and hearing, to recommend to the House by resolution or otherwise, such action as the committee may deem appropriate in the circumstances; (C) to report to the appropriate Federal or State authorities, with the approval of the House, any substantial evidence of a violation, by a Member, officer, or employee of the House, of any law applicable to the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, which may have been disclosed in a committee investigation; and (D) to give consideration to the request of any Member, officer, or employee of the House for an advisory opinion with respect to the general propriety of any current or proposed conduct of such Member, officer, or employee and, with appropriate deletions to assure the privacy of the individual concerned, to publish such opinion for the guidance of other Members, officers, and employees of the House.

(2) (A) No resolution, report, recommendation, or advisory opinion relating to the official conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House shall be made by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and no investigation of such conduct shall be undertaken by such committee, unless approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the committee.

(B) Except in the case of an investigation undertaken by the committee on its own initiative, the committee may undertake an investigation relating to the official conduct of an individual Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives only—

(i) upon receipt of a complaint, in writing and under oath, made by or submitted to a Member of the House and transmitted to the committee by such Member, or

(ii) upon receipt of a complaint, in writing and under oath, directly from an individual not a Member of the House if the committee finds that such complaint has been submitted by such

individual to not less than three Members of the House who have refused, in writing, to transmit such complaint to the committee.

(C) No investigation shall be undertaken by the committee of any alleged violation of a law, rule, regulation, or standard of conduct not in effect at the time of the alleged violation.

(D) A member of the committee shall be ineligible to participate, as a member of the committee, in any committee proceeding relating to his or her official conduct. In any case in which a member of the committee is ineligible to act as a member of the committee under the preceding sentence, the Speaker of the House shall designate a Member of the House from the same political party as the ineligible member of the committee to act as a member of the committee in any committee proceeding relating to the official conduct of such ineligible member.

(E) A member of the committee may disqualify himself from participating in any investigation of the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House upon the submission in writing and under oath of an affidavit of disqualification stating that he cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision in the case in which he seeks to disqualify himself. If the committee approves and accepts such affidavit of disqualification, the chairman shall so notify the Speaker and request the Speaker to designate a Member of the House from the same political party as the disqualifying member of the committee to act as a member of the committee in any committee proceeding relating to such investigation.

(F) No information or testimony received, or the contents of a complaint or the fact of its filing, shall be publicly disclosed by any committee or staff member unless specifically authorized in each instance by a vote of the full committee.

Rule XI

1. (a) (1) The Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a motion of high privilege in committees and subcommittees.

(2) Each subcommittee of a committee is a part of that committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

(b) Each committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of it reponsibilities under Rule X, and (subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by clause 5) to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(c) Each committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the committee. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of a committee shall be paid from the contingent fund of the House.

(d) Each committee shall submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of that committee under this rule and Rule X during the Congress ending at noon on January 3 of such year.

Adoption of written rules

2. (a) Each standing committee of the House shall adopt written rules governing its procedure. Such rules—

(1) shall be adopted in a meeting which is open to the public unless the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by rollcall vote that all or part of the meeting on that day is to be closed to the public;

(2) shall be not inconsistent with the Rules of the House or with those provisions of law having the force and effect of Rules of the House; and

(3) shall in any event incorporate all of the succeeding provisions of this clause to the extent applicable.

Each committee's rules specifying its regular meeting days, and any other rules of a committee which are in addition to the provisions of this clause, shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than thirty days after the Congress convenes in each odd-numbered year. Each select or joint committee shall comply with the provisions of this paragraph unless specifically prohibited by law.

Regular meeting days

(b) Each standing committee of the House shall adopt regular meeting days, which shall be not less frequent than monthly, for the conduct of its business. Each such committee shall meet, for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the committee or for the transaction of other committee business, on all regular meeting days fixed by the committee, unless otherwise provided by written rule adopted by the committee.

Additional and special meetings

(c) (1) The chairman of each standing committee may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the committee or for the conduct of other committee business. The committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to that call of the chairman.

(2) If at least three members of any standing committee desire that a special meeting of the committee be called by the chairman, those members may file in the offices of the committee their written request to the chairman for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the clerk of the committee shall notify the chairman of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the committee may file in the offices of the committee their written notice that a special meeting

of the committee will be held specifying the date and hour of, and the measure or matter to be considered at, that special meeting. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk of the committee shall notify all members of the committee that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered; and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

Ranking majority Member to preside in absence of chairman

(d) If the chairman of any standing committee is not present at any meeting of the committee, the ranking member of the majority party on the committee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

Committee records

(e)(1) Each committee shall keep a complete record of all committee action which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a rollcall vote is demanded. The result of each such rollcall vote shall be made available by the committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and whether by proxy or in person, and the names of those Members present but not voting.

(2) All committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Members serving as chairman of the committee; and such records shall be the property of the House and all Members of the House shall have access thereto, except that in the case of records in the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct respecting the conduct of any Member, officer, or employee of the House, no Member of the House (other than a member of such committee) shall have access thereto without the specific, prior approval of the committee.

(f) No vote by any Member of any Committee or subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy unless such committee, by written rule adopted by the committee, permits voting by proxy and requires that the proxy authorization shall be in writing, shall assert that the Member is absent on official business or is otherwise unable to be present at the meeting of the committee, shall designate the person who is to execute the proxy authorization, and shall be limited to a specific measure or matter and any amendments or motions pertaining thereto; except that a member may authorize a general proxy only for motions to recess, adjourn or other procedural matters. Each proxy to be effective shall be signed by the Member assigning his or her vote and shall contain the date and time of day that the proxy is signed. Proxies may not be counted for a quorum.

Open meetings and hearings

(g)(1) Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of each standing committee or sub-

committee thereof shall be open to the public except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by rollcall vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public: *Provided, however,* That no person other than members of the committee and such congressional staff and such departmental representatives as they may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session which has been closed to the public. This paragraph does not apply to open committee hearings which are provided for by clause 4(a)(1) of Rule X or by subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, or to any meeting that relates solely to internal budget or personnel matters.

(2) Each hearing conducted by each committee or subcommittee thereof shall be open to the public except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by rollcall vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. No Member may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing of any committee or subcommittee, with the exception of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize a particular committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by the same procedures designated in this subparagraph for closing hearings to the public: *Provided, however,* That the committee or subcommittee may by the same procedure vote to close one subsequent day of hearing.

(3) Each committee of the House (except the Committee on Rules) shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any committee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing. If the committee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, it shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this subparagraph shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest.

(4) Each committee shall, insofar as is practicable, require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the committee (in advance of his or her appearance) a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of his or her argument.

(5) No point of order shall lie with respect to any measure reported by any committee on the ground that hearings on such measure were not conducted in accordance with the provisions of this clause; except that a point of order on that ground may be made by any member of the committee which reported the measure if, in the committee, such point of order was (A) timely made and (B) improperly overruled or not properly considered.

(6) The preceding provisions of this paragraph do not apply to the committee hearings which are provided for by clause 4(a)(1) of Rule X.

Quorum for taking testimony and certain other action

(h) (1) Each committee may fix the number of its members to constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence which shall be not less than two.

(2) Each committee (except the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Ways and Means) may fix the number of its members to constitute a quorum for taking any action other than the reporting of a measure or recommendation which shall be not less than one-third of the members.

Prohibition against committee meetings during five-minute rule

(i) No committee of the House (except the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Rules, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct) may sit, without special leave, while the House is reading a measure for amendment under the five-minute rule. For purposes of this paragraph, special leave will be granted unless 10 or more Members object.

Calling and interrogation of witnesses

(j) (1) Whenever any hearing is conducted by any committee upon any measure or matter, the minority party Members on the committee shall be entitled, upon request to the chairman by a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(2) Each committee shall apply the five-minute rule in the interrogation of witnesses in any hearing until such time as each Member of the committee who so desires has had an opportunity to question each witness.

Investigative hearing procedures

(k) (1) The chairman at an investigative hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation.

(2) A copy of the committee rules and this clause shall be made available to each witness.

(3) Witnesses at investigative hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights.

(4) The chairman may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(5) If the committee determines that evidence or testimony at an investigative hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, it shall—

(A) receive such evidence or testimony in executive session;

(B) afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness; and

(C) receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpena additional witnesses.

(6) Except as provided in subparagraph (5), the chairman shall receive and the committee shall dispose of requests to subpena additional witnesses.

(7) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the committee.

(8) In the discretion of the committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The committee is the sole judge of the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(9) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the committee.

Committee procedures for reporting bills and resolutions

(l) (1) (A) It shall be the duty of the chairman of each committee (except as provided in subdivision (C)) to report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any measure approved by the committee and to take or cause to be taken necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote.

(B) In any event, the report of any committee on a measure which has been approved by the committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing of any such request, the clerk of the committee shall transmit immediately to the chairman of the committee notice of the filing of that request. This subdivision does not apply to the reporting of a regular appropriation bill by the Committee on Appropriations prior to compliance with subdivision (C) and does not apply to a report of the Committee on Rules with respect to the rules, joint rules, or order of business of the House or to the reporting of a resolution of inquiry addressed to the head of an executive department.

(C) Before reporting the first regular appropriation bill for each fiscal year, the Committee on Appropriations shall, to the extent practicable and in accordance with section 307 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, complete subcommittee markup and full committee action on all regular appropriation bills for that year and submit to the House a summary report comparing the committee's recommendations with the appropriate levels of budget outlays and new budget authority as set forth in the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget for that year.

(2) (A) No measure or recommendation shall be reported from any committee unless a majority of the committee was actually present.

(B) With respect to each rollcall vote on a motion to report any bill or resolution of a public character, the total number of votes cast for, and the total number of votes cast against, the reporting of such bill or resolution shall be included in the committee report.

(3) The report of any committee on a measure which has been approved by the committee (A) shall include the oversight findings and recommendations required pursuant to the last sentence of clause 2(b)(1) of Rule X separately set out and clearly identified; (B) the statement required by section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, separately set out and clearly identified, if the measure provides new budget authority or new or increased tax expenditures; (C) the estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of such Act, separately set out and clearly identified, whenever the Director (if timely submitted prior to the filing of the report) has submitted such estimate and comparison to the committee; and (D) a summary of the oversight findings and recommendations made by the Committee on Government Operations under clause 2(b)(2) of Rule X separately set out and clearly identified whenever such findings and recommendations have been submitted to the legislative committee in a timely fashion to allow an opportunity to consider such findings and recommendations during the committee's deliberations on the measure.

(4) Each report of a committee on each bill or joint resolution of a public character reported by such committee shall contain a detailed analytical statement as to whether the enactment of such bill or joint resolution into law may have an inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

(5) If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by any committee, other than the Committee on Rules, any member of the committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that member shall be entitled to not less than three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that member, with the clerk of the committee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the committee with respect to that measure or matter. The report of the committee upon that measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume which—

(A) shall include all supplemental, minority, or additional views which have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report, and

(B) shall bear upon its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, or additional views (and any material submitted under subdivisions (C) and (D) of subparagraph (3)) are included as part of the report.

This subparagraph does not preclude—

(i) the immediate filing or printing of a committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, or additional views has been made as provided by this subparagraph; or

(ii) the filing by any such committee of any supplemental report upon any measure or matter which may be required

for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by that committee upon that measure or matter.

(6) A measure or matter reported by any committee (except the Committee on Rules in the case of a resolution making in order the consideration of a bill, resolution, or other order of business), shall not be considered in the House until the third calendar day (or the tenth calendar day in the case of a concurrent resolution on the budget), excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays following the day on which the report of that committee upon that measure or matter has been available to the Members of the House. If hearings have been held on any such measure or matter so reported, the committee reporting the measure or matter shall make every reasonable effort to have such hearings printed and available for distribution to the Members of the House prior to the consideration of such measure or matter in the House. This subparagraph shall not apply to—

(A) any measure for the declaration of war, or the declaration of a national emergency, by the Congress; or

(B) any executive decision, determination, or action which would become or continue to be, effective unless disapproved or otherwise invalidated by one or both Houses of Congress.

(7) If, within seven calendar days after a measure has, by resolution, been made in order for consideration by the House, no motion has been offered that the House consider that measure, any member of the committee which reported that measure may be recognized in the discretion of the Speaker to offer a motion that the House shall consider that measure, if that committee has duly authorized that member to offer that motion.

Power to sit and act; subpena power

(m)(1) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under this rule and Rule X (including any matters referred to it under clause 5 of Rule X), any committee, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized (subject to subparagraph (2)(A) of this paragraph)—

(A) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings, and

(B) to require, by subpena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary. The chairman of the committee, or any member designated by such chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(2)(A) A subpena may be authorized and issued by a committee or subcommittee under subparagraph (1)(B) in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpenas under subparagraph (1)(B) may be delegated to the chairman of the committee pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the committee may prescribe. Authorized sub-

penas shall be signed by the chairman of the committee or by any member designated by the committee.

(B) Compliance with any subpena issued by a committee or subcommittee under subparagraph (1) (B) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

Use of committee funds for travel

(n) Funds authorized for a committee under clause 5 are for expenses incurred in the committee's activities within the United States; however, local currencies owned by the United States shall be made available to the committee and its employees engaged in carrying out their official duties outside the United States. No appropriated funds shall be expended for the purpose of defraying expenses of members of the committee or its employees in any country where local currencies are available for this purpose; and the following conditions shall apply with respect to their use of such currencies:

(1) No Member or empoyee of the committee shall receive or expend local currencies for subsistence in any country at a rate in excess of the maximum per diem rate set forth in applicable Federal law.

(2) Each Member or employee of the committee shall make to the chairman of the committee an itemized report showing the number of days visited in each country whose local currencies were spent, the amount of per diem furnished, and the cost of transportation if furnished by public carrier, or, if such transportation is furnished by an agency of the United States Government the cost of such transportation and the identification of the agency. All such individual reports shall be filed by the chairman with the Committee on House Administration and shall be open to public inspection.

HISTORY

April 13, 1967 (H. Res. 418, 90th Congress, 1st Session), established a standing committee of the House of Representatives to be known as the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, to be composed of six members of the majority party and six members of the minority party. The jurisdiction of the Committee was limited to recommending such changes in laws, rules, and regulations as the Committee deemed necessary to establish and enforce standards of official conduct for Members, officers, and employees of the House.

April 3, 1968 (H. Res. 1099, 90th Congress, 2d Session), made the Committee a permanent standing committee and added the Code of Official Conduct (Rule XLIII) and a financial disclosure requirement (Rule XLIV) to the Rules of the House. H. Res. 1099 defined the Committee's jurisdiction and gave it authority to administer and enforce Standards of Official Conduct and to administer the financial disclosure rule.

May 26, 1970 (H. Res. 796, 91st Congress).—The financial disclosure rule was amended to require disclosure of certain honorariums and identification of certain unsecured indebtedness.

July 8, 1970 (H. Res. 1031, 91st Congress).—The Committee's jurisdiction was broadened to include limited legislative authority over lobbying and campaign finance.

January 22, 1971 (H. Res. 5, 92d Congress).—The Code of Official Conduct and the financial disclosure requirement were amended to include the Delegate from the District of Columbia in the definition of "Members".

October 13, 1972 (H. Res. 1153, 92d Congress).—The Code of Official Conduct and the financial disclosure requirement were amended to include the Delegates from Guam and the Virgin Islands in the definition of "Members".

October 8, 1974 (H. Res. 988, 93d Congress).—The requirement that the Committee be limited to 12 Members was removed, with no limit set, but the requirement that the membership be composed of an equal number of majority and minority Members was retained. This resolution also removed the Committee's authority to sit without special leave during the five-minute rule and its exemption from the requirement to make committee reports available to Members three days in advance of House consideration.

January 14, 1975 (H. Res. 5, 94th Congress).—The Committee's jurisdiction over campaign finance was transferred to the Committee on House Administration, a new Clause 9 was added to the Code of Official Conduct and Clause 6 was modified.

August 1, 1975.—Committee Rule 6 providing for broadcasting and photographing of Committee meetings and hearings was adopted.

February 19, 1976 (H. Res. 1042, 94th Congress).—The Committee was directed by the House to investigate the unauthorized publication of the report of the Select Committee on Intelligence. H. Res. 1054 and H. Res. 1060 provided subpena authority and funding for the investigation.

June 10, 1976 (H. Res. 1260, 94th Congress).—The Committee was authorized to draw from the contingent fund of the House for all expenses during the remainder of the 94th Congress upon vouchers signed by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee.

January 4, 1977 (H. Res. 5, 95th Congress).—House Rule X 1(t) removed the Committee's jurisdiction over financial disclosure and lobbying.

February 9, 1977 (H. Res. 252, 95th Congress) directed the Committee to investigate allegations of efforts of the Government of Korea to influence legislation in Congress.

Public Law 95–105, signed on August 17, 1977, authorized the Committee to issue regulations applicable to acceptance of gifts and decorations from foreign governments.

March 27, 1980 (H. Res. 608, 96th Congress).—directed the Committee to investigate alleged improper conduct which was the subject of investigations by the Department of Justice (ABSCAM).

March 4, 1981 (H. Res. 67, 97th Congress).—directed the Committee to continue the ABSCAM investigation.

July 13, 1982 (H. Res. 518, 97th Congress).—directed the Committee to investigate allegations of improper illicit sexual conduct and illicit use or distribution of drugs by Members, officers, or employees of the House.

January 3, 1983 (H. Res. 12, 98th Congress).—directed the Committee to continue investigation authorized by H. Res. 518 of the 97th Congress.

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